STATE OF ILLINOIS
HENRY HORNER
Governor

PLANS FOR BIRD HOUSES AND SHELTERS

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
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1934

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ENCOURAGE OUR BIRDS BY:

(1) Providing for nesting places.
(2) Protecting the trees and forests.
(3) Winter feeding.
(4) Eliminating their enemies.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

CHARLES F. THOMPSON, Director

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1934

PLANS FOR BIRD HOUSES

The simple plans included in this leaflet are intended to assist bird lovers in building residences for a few of our feathered friends. Not all kinds of birds take favorably to man-made houses, but if the plans are followed with reasonable care, the builder should be assured of a pair of wrens, bluebirds, robins or flickers as tenants when nesting season starts.

One of the plans indicates a perch on the house. If the English Sparrow is common in the neighborhood, the perch had best be left off, because oftentimes sparrows light there and by their constant chatter, drive the other birds away. Furthermore, most of the desirable house-nesting birds can get along very nicely without a perch. The plans given here assume ½ inch material; if boards of other thickness are used, allowance in dimensions must be made accordingly.

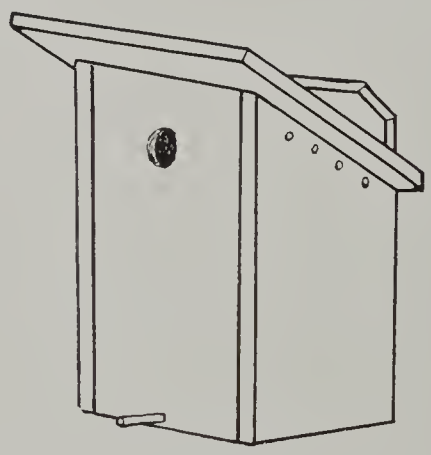
There are almost numberless designs for bird houses and hence a great many outlets for the bird house architect's imagination. However, a few essential points must be kept in mind: (a) the size of hole necessary for the bird intended, and (b) the importance of providing means for cleaning the house.

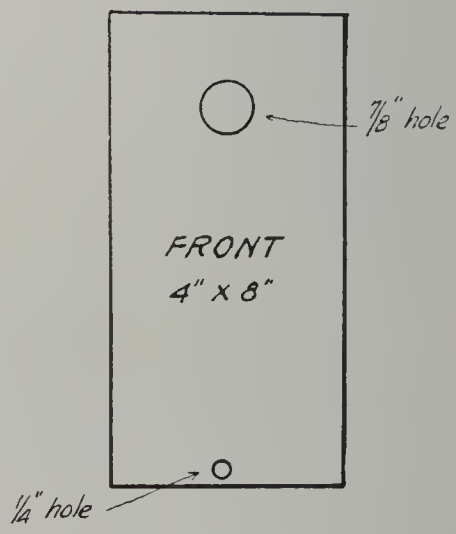
Additional specifications for houses for various kinds of birds are given in the following table:

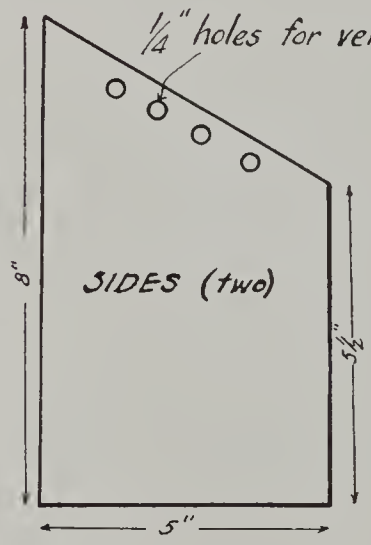
Bird.	Floor area in inches.	Depth in inches.	Entrance above floor in inches.	Diameter of entrance in inches.	Height from ground in feet.
Bluebird	5 x 5	8	6	1½	5-10
Robin	6 x 8	8	(a)	(a)	6-15
Chickadee	4 x 4	8-10	8	1⅛	6-15
Tufted Titmouse	4 x 4	8-10	8	1¼	6-15
White-breasted Nuthatch	4 x 4	8-10	8	1¼	12-20
House Wren	4 x 4	6-8	1-6	⅞	6-10
Bewick Wren	4 x 4	6-8	1-6	1⅛	6-10
Tree Swallow	5 x 5	6	1-6	1½	10-15
Barn Swallow	6 x 6	6	(a)	(a)	8-12
Martin	6 x 6	6	1	2-2½	16-20
Song Sparrow	6 x 6	6	(b)	...	1-3
Red-headed Woodpecker	6 x 6	12-15	12	2	12-20
Hairy Woodpecker	6 x 6	12-15	12	1½	12-20
Downy Woodpecker	4 x 4	8-10	8	1¼	6-20

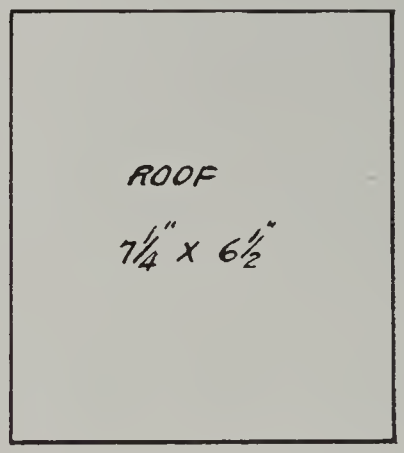
(a) One or more sides open.
(b) All sides open.

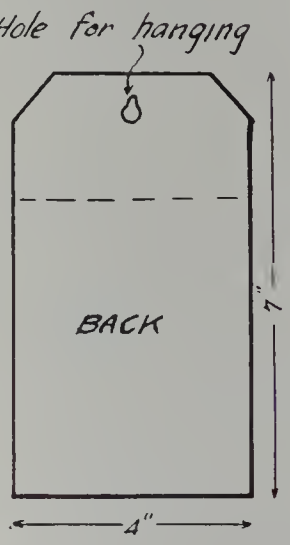
WREN HOUSE

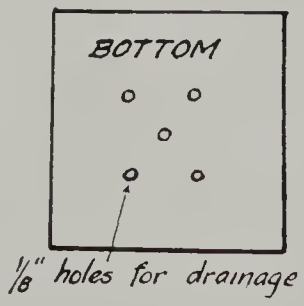


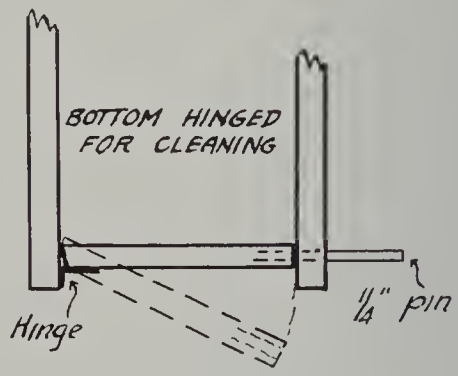

7/8" hole
FRONT
4" x 8"
1/4" hole


1/4" holes for ventilation
SIDES (two)
8"
5 1/2"
5"

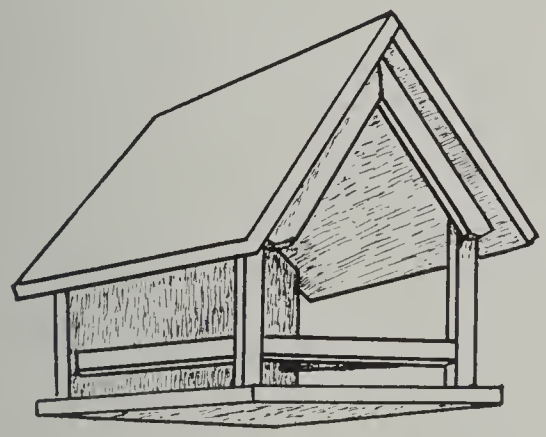

ROOF
7 1/4" x 6 1/2"


Hole for hanging
BACK
7"
4"


BOTTOM
1/8" holes for drainage


BOTTOM HINGED
FOR CLEANING
Hinge
1/4" pin

ROBIN



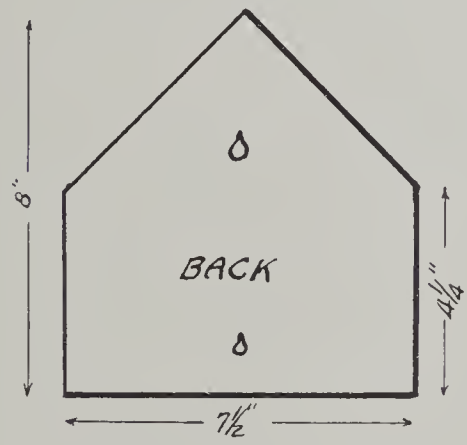
1" x 6¼"
SIDE RAILS (Two)

1" x 6"
FRONT RAIL

1" x 6¾"
CORNICE (Two)

1" x 5"
POSTS (Two)

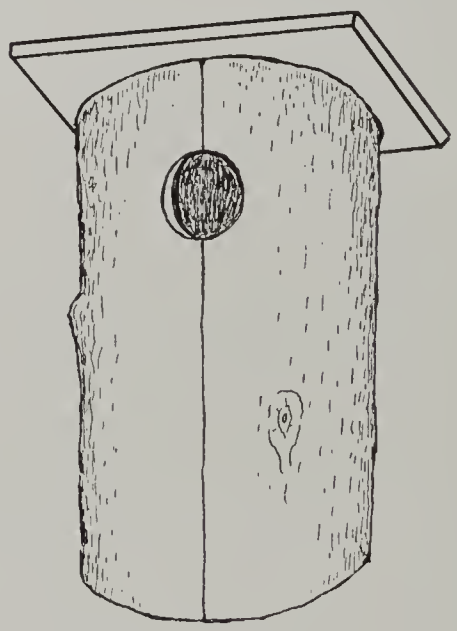
BOTTOM
8" x 8"

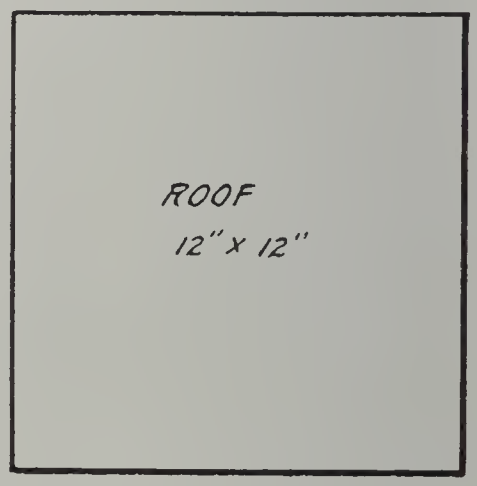


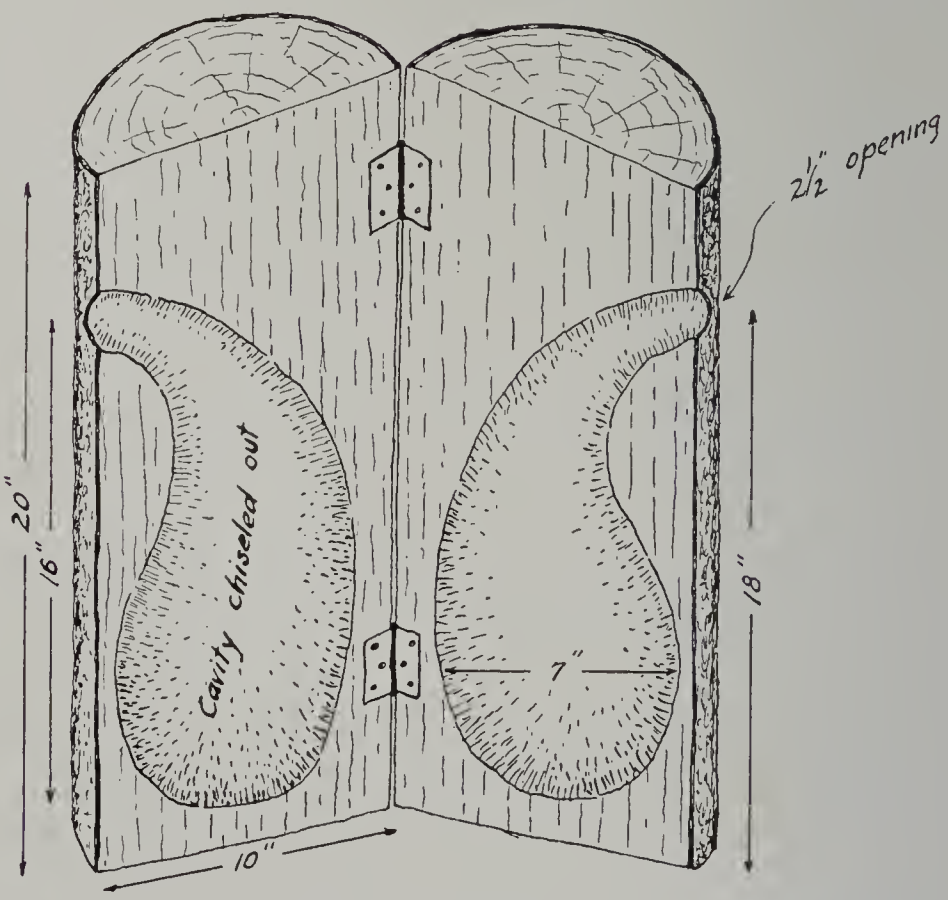
ROOF (Right)
7" x 9"

ROOF (Left)
7½" x 9"

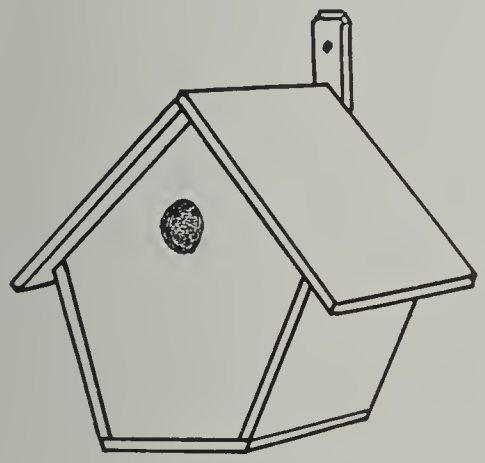
FLICKER



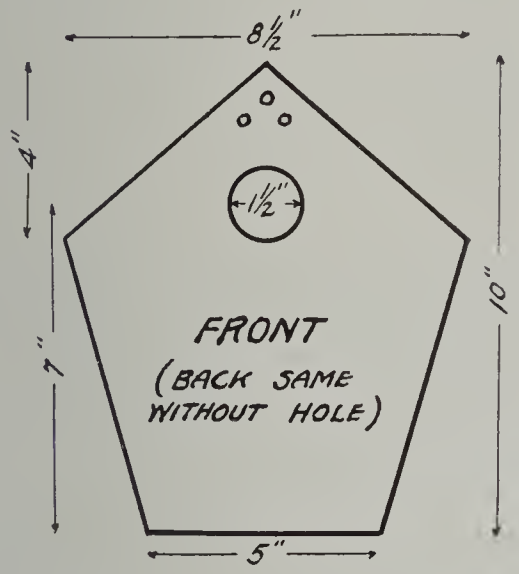




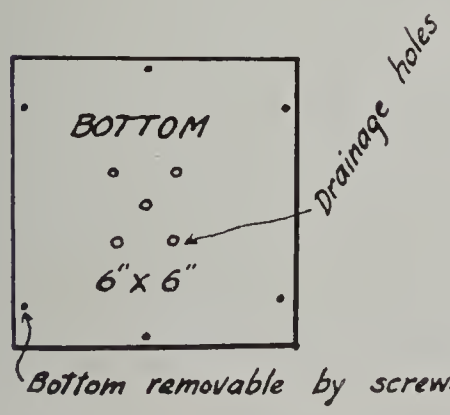
BLUE BIRD



TOP
(Right)
$7\frac{3}{4}'' \times 8\frac{1}{2}''$



TOP
(Left)
$7\frac{3}{4}'' \times 8''$



SIDES
(TWO)
Beveled to fit
Top and Bottom.
$6\frac{1}{4}'' \times 6\frac{1}{4}''$

The summer time homes for our birds should not be our only consideration in caring for them. Winter cover, feed and feed shelters are quite as important and we are furnishing illustrations of splendid work of this kind which has come to our attention. We are indebted to the American Game Association for the "Bird Feed Shelter." (1)

A Boy Scout Troop, on hike, provided the material for illustrating what may be done to provide protection for the birds during storm periods, and to take care of the feed which may be supplied by bird lovers. (2 and 3)

Illustrations Number 4 and 5 were furnished by the Wisconsin Department of Conservation.

All of these devices are "home made", and can be built by anyone with no expense and with very little effort.

1. Bird Feed Shelter

2. Boy Scouts Arranging Brush During Storm

3. Completed Bird and Feed Shelter --- Made by Boy Scouts

4.

5.

Plans for the construction of Sparrow Traps may be obtained by addressing the Department of Conservation, Springfield, Illinois

(1926) 248

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